

REMARKS:**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

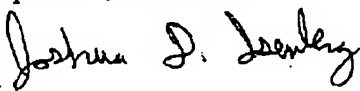
To expedite prosecution, the Applicants have voluntarily amended the claims as follows. Claim 21 has been amended to specify that the buffer layer is formed by MOCVD. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the buffer layer and epitaxial layer are nitride layers. Claim 27 has been amended so that it reads as a device claim. Claim 31 has been amended to depend from claim 27.

In a telephone conversation with Joshua D. Isenberg on June 11, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the changes above would expedite prosecution and place the application in an allowable condition. In particular, the amendment to claim 27, was made to obviate an election of species. The Examiner indicated that, without the amendment to claim 27, an election of species would be required between claims 21-26 and claims 27-32. If, and only if, such an election is required, the Applicants provisionally elect claims 21-26, with traverse. The Applicants do not concede that this amendment or any of the other amendments are necessary for any reason related to patentability. The Applicants therefore reserve the right to pursue the original claims in a later-filed continuation application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the application and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,


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